

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**October, 2009**

# INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## 2009

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# **INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Membership Roster**

### **Representatives**

**Robert Bischoff, Chairperson**  
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**Vincennes**

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**James Lewis**  
**Charlestown**

### **Staff**

**Susan Montgomery**  
**Attorney for the Committee**

**Bernadette Bartlett**  
**Fiscal Analyst for the Committee**

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

## **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE**

In IC 15-13-6-4, the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation directing the Committee to:

- (1) Serve as a liaison between the:
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) board of trustees of the barn;
  - (C) board; and
  - (D) general assembly.
- (2) Review policies affecting the activities of the:
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) barn;
  - (C) state fair;
  - (D) facilities at the fairgrounds; and
  - (E) property owned by the commission.
- (3) Provide long range guidance for the:
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) board of trustees of the barn; and
  - (C) board.
- (4) Review annually the:
  - (A) commission's;
  - (B) board of trustees of the barn's; and
  - (C) board's;

budgets and other accounts and report financial conditions to the legislative council. A report under this subdivision to the legislative council must be in electronic format under IC 5-14-6.
- (5) Further advise the budget committee regarding appropriations and other financial matters concerning the:
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) board of trustees of the barn; and
  - (C) board.
- (6) Propose, review, and make recommendations concerning legislation affecting the:
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) barn; and
  - (C) board.

The Legislative Council did not assign any topics of study to the Committee in 2009.

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Committee met twice during the 2009 interim. Meetings were held on:

- (1) September 10, 2009
- (2) October 26, 2009

Both meetings were held in the Board Room of the Administration Building at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

### **III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

**Activities at the State Fairgrounds.** Cynthia C. Hoyer, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, and David Ellis, Director of Finance for the Fairgrounds provided reports to the Committee on: (1) the 2009 Indiana State Fair; and (2) activities at the Indiana State Fairgrounds during the summer and fall of 2008 through the summer of and fall of 2009. For the first time, the 2009 Fair dates extended over three weekends. The economy seems to have affected the spending habits of the visitors to the Fair, but the enthusiasm and interest in the Fair has continued. Attendance at consumer shows actually has increased slightly.

**Plans for Future Fairs and the Fairgrounds.** Director Hoyer reported on: (1) anticipated funding for the Fair from Fair profits and from current and anticipated appropriations from the General Assembly; (2) dates for the 2010 Fair; the theme for that Fair will be The Year of the Pig; and (3) capital improvements to the Fairgrounds. The 2010 and future Fairs will be evaluated so as not to interfere with county fairs and to interfere as little as possible with school calendars. Director Hoyer described proposed renovations of the Pepsi Coliseum and the 4-H buildings. Since 2010 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts, there may be special activities or a legacy project performed by that group for the anniversary.

**Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (CASH).** Justin Armstrong, Barn Director for CASH, reported on the educational activities of the CASH. The Barn is exceeding its goals for attendance at educational programs. For the first year, field trips were offered to students who had already begun the school year during the dates of the Fair; those were very successful. The Barn also utilizes a van to bring outreach programs beyond the central Indiana region.

**Discussions Regarding Potential Legislation.** The Committee discussed: (1) the issues of alcohol sales or distribution on the Fairgrounds during the period of the Indiana State Fair (IC 7.1-5-10-17); (2) whether attendance at the Fair should be an excused absence for purposes of school attendance; (3) whether legislation is warranted to mandate the start date of K-12 schools so that students may attend the Fair; (4) the manner of investing portions of the operating funds of the State Fair Commission; and (5) continuing funding mechanisms for the Fair and Fairgrounds.

### **IV. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

The Committee did not recommend any legislation for action during the 2010 Session. For further details of the Committee's proceedings, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee can be accessed at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim>

## **WITNESS LIST**

Cynthia Hoye, Executive Director, Indiana State Fair

Justin Armstrong, Barn Director, Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage

David Ellis, Director of Finance for the Indiana State Fairgrounds

Susan Montgomery, Legislative Services Agency and Attorney for the Committee